

The John Schenk House  
Union Street, cor. Moravian Alley  
Hope, Warren County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-580

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The John Schenk House  
Union Street, cor. Moravian Alley  
Hope, Warren County, New Jersey

Owner and occupant: Dr. Walter Storm

Date of Erection: 1780-1808

Architect: Unknown

Builder: (Sup.) John Schenk "nailor" (d. 1814) owner\*

Present Condition: Original, well maintained. Front porch not original

Number of Stories: One and one-half, above collar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - limestone masonry

Exterior walls - broken range limestone masonry

Interior walls - frame partitions, plastered

Chimneys - brick (one standing free of walls)

Roof - gable, slate covered

Historical Data:

The designation of this house is that of the owner in 1808, as determined by search of title deeds. Whether in fact he erected it has not been discovered, but it is so assumed from the

\* The names of John and George Schank frequently occur in the Moravian records of Hope, advises the present asst. archivist, K. G. Hamilton, at Bethlehem, Pa., 13. Mar. 1942. One Martin and Ann Mary Schenke appear in the list of 33 adult and 19 children inhabitants present at the dedication of the corner stone of the Moravian church at Hope on 2 April 1781 - (Proceedings, N.J. Hist. Soc. - 2nd ser. vol. XI, 200). He was possibly the John Martin Schenk who died 6 Dec. 1797, at Nazareth, Pa. having mar. 1778 at Bethlehem, Anna Maria Kling who d. 24 June 1794. (Transactions Moravian Hist. Soc. VII, 116 and 118).

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mention of "John Shank, nailor" being one of the five men who "at their own proper costs have erected dwelling houses with outhouses and shops for carrying on their respective trades" and which properties were to be appraised at no more than \$3200 allowance from the purchase price of the 1500 acre Hope tract according to the Agreement of Sale dated 22 September 1807.(a)

In a diagram of the village of Hope inscribed in the hand of Bishop Ettwein, the Moravian pastor in 1774-5 and 1779-80, the only buildings are shown thus: the hotel at S.W. cor. of Walnut Street and Cider Alley, Greens house on same side of Walnut Street, with the alley, a stable N.W. of Greens house and a distillery N.E. of his house, the mill at the N.E. corner of the intersection of the road to Sussex Court House with the Road from Brunswick to Paulins Kill a house marked Blum at the E. end of Moravian alley, and one marked Stephen Nicholas on the W. side of Hickory Street, just below Cider Alley. The lot at the S.W. corner of Union and High Streets is marked as intended for the church,\* five lots next south of it are assigned to the Single Sisters, and the lot opposite it, at S.E. corner of Union and High Streets, to the Single Brethren. The lot at S.E. corner of Union Street and Moravian Alley, on which stands the house here considered, is unassigned.(b) The site of the village had been laid out in lots by the Moravian ministers, Nathaniel Seidel, John Ettwein, and Hans Christian von Schweinitz

(a) Recorded in Sussex Co. Deed Book R. p. 361.

\* Erected 1781-82, it is still standing, used as a bank and apartments.

(b) Diagram found on rear cover of the Hope Church Book, 1774-1808, in archives of the Moravian Ch. at Bethlehem, Pa., reported by K. G. Hamilton, asst. archivist, 5 Mar. 1942.

upon its being surveyed on 25 and 26 March 1774 by J. W. (or George?) Kolkofsky or Golgosky.(c) It is evident, accordingly, that this house was erected between 1780-1807.

The agreement of sale dated 22 Sept. 1807 between Christian L. Benzein, the nominal proprietor of Moravian real estate, and Nicholas Kraemer and Abraham Horn, mentioned above, was evidently altered, for a number of deeds given by Benzein in 1808 conveying parcels of the Hope tract appear on record.

Thus, by a deed of 18 Feb. 1808, (the Rev.) Christian L. Benzein of Salem, Stokes Co., North Carolina, "Clerk", by attorney John G. Cunow of Bethlehem, Pa., conveyed to John Shank of Hope, Sussex Co., N.J., for \$100 a certain "lot or piece of ground in the said Town of Hope, which in the plan of the said town is distinguished with the number 19", describing it having a frontage of 69 feet 4 inches on Union Street and a depth of 135 feet 4 inches and as bounded north by Moravian Alley, east by Trout Alley, south by a lot of Nicholas Kramer and west by Union Street, "with all and singular the houses, outhouses, edifices, buildings" etc. Recital appears that this lot is part of the 945 acre so-called Hope Tract which Samuel Green and wife Ann by deed of 7 March 1769, recorded in Book C - page 187, conveyed to Nathaniel Seidel who by will of 20 June 1770 devised all real estate to Frederick Marshall in trust for the United Brethren, who by will of 6 Dec. 1801 in turn devised the same trust to said C. L. Benzein.(d)

(c) C.F. Klugo: A Sketch of the Settlement of Hope, N.J., publ. in Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society, 1859, Vol. 1, pp. 51 et seq.

(d) Sussex Co. Deed Book R, p. 523.

By a deed of same date, Benzein also conveyed to "John Shank of Hope in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, nailor," for \$1376 a 60 acre tract half a mile further south on Union Street in a corner of the Hope tract. (Bk. R. p. 519). His administrator, Joseph Shank conveyed this to Joseph Dey by deed of 24 Apr. 1819.

The Inventory of the goods and chattles of John Shank late of Oxford Township, deceased intestate, as appraised on 8 Oct. 1814 by Barnabas Swayze and James De Witt and attested by Joseph Shank the administrator, included these items viz. 2 colts, horned cattle, flax, buckwheat, corn, 5 stacks of hay, oats, grain in sheaf, windmill, nailing machine etc. \$100, bellows in shop \$20, grindstone cutting box \$6, book accounts against twelve debtors at \$91.28, the total valuation being \$818.48. (Sussex Co. Inventory Book B. p. 251).

By deed of 6 June 1829, Abner Bunting and wife Anna, of Hardwick Twp., Sussex Co., N.J., conveyed to Daniel Mixsell of Oxford Twp., Warren Co.,\* for \$400 their share in the lot no. 19 in the village of Hope, having a 70 feet frontage on the west side of Union Street, and a depth of 135 feet 4 inches to Trout Alley, bounded north by Moravian Alley and south by a lot of Richard Whitesal, being "commonly known as the Shank lot," reciting that it was purchased by said Bunting at sheriff's sale and conveyed to him by deed of 4 Aug. 1824. (Warren Co. Deed Bk. No. 7 p. 218).

And, by a deed of 10 Dec. 1830, James Edwards and wife Mary, of Union Twp., Luzerne Co., Pa., conveyed to the said Daniel Mixsell of Oxford Twp., Warren Co., N.J., for \$110 their undivided fifth part of the same lot no. 19, "Being the same lot of which John Schenk late of Hope, in Oxford Twp. died seized, a part of which descended to said Mary Edwards as the daughter and one of the heirs at law of the said John Schenk deceased." (Warren Co. Deed Bk. No. 8 p. 450).

\* Warren Co. created from southern part of Sussex 1824. Hope Twp. was formed from Oxford and Knowlton 1839.

By deed of 2 April 1849, Daniel Mixsell abovenamed, and wife Elizabeth, of Hope Twp., Warren Co.\* conveyed to Sanford Swayze of same place, for \$900 the same lot no. 19 in the village of Hope. (Warren Co. Deed Bk. No. 30, p. 317).

By deed of 8 Feb. 1856, Sanford Swayze and wife Loranna D., of Hope Twp., conveyed to Lorenzo M. Swayze of same, for \$1800 the same lot no. 19 in the village of Hope - (Warren Co. Deed Bk. No. 45 p. 526). This grantee, Lorenzo Marshall Swayze, died in 1864 and this property devolved upon his son John B. Swayze and daughter Anna J. Stewart. The map of the village of Hope, published in Beers Atlas of Warren Co., 1874, shows this house then occupied by D. C. Hager.\*

By deed of 22 Sept. 1888, John B. Swayze# and wife Frances, of Hope, Warren Co., N.J., and Robert A. Stewart and wife Anna J. of Phillipsburg, N.J., conveyed to Emiline Luse and children, all of Hope, the same lot no. 19 in the village of Hope. (Bk. No. 137 p. 309), and finally, by deed of 17 March 1900, the sheriff having seized it in proceedings against Luse foreclosing the mortgage, conveyed the same to Walter Storm of Hope, still describing it as "designated as lot no. 19 in the town plot of the village of Hope," 70 by 135 feet 4 inches. (Bk. No. 107 p. 436).

\* "Still later, Peter W. Blair taught in a room of the house now occupied by D. C. Hagar." (Snell Hist. Sussex and Warren Cos. N.J., 1881, p. 663, Hope Twp.

# John B. Swayze owned the Moravian Mill (NJ-569) at Hope from 1886 to 1896.

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Dr. Storm remains as owner and occupant of the house at the time of this writing. This photo-data book comprises our survey of this house measured drawings being beyond the capacity of our reduced staff of draftsman at this time. The survey is to terminate its work in New Jersey on 1st of May 1942.

## Reference:

Search of title in land and probate records of Sussex and Warren Counties by the undersigned

Louis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer